

Mayor Chat, April 4, 2006, here is the questions and comment at the last Mayor's Chat. In *Italic* is the answer received after the meeting.

1. Bob Pfeil, 136 E. Holly Trail, asked about the status of the E. Holly Trail cul-de-sac widening, is it a dead issue? Mayor answered it is alive again, Town Manager will work on figures and they will discuss at budget time.
2. Bobby Walters, 60 Hickory Trail, stated he noticed that the parking, Hickory Trail and some of the Avenues seems to be getting shorter than years ago. Only about 3 to 4 cars can park, when you used to be able to park many more cars. Mayor will look into this. *With the increase of improved properties and cars parking at the beach, the Town has made designated parking off the streets that have ocean access. There is only parking on Town streets where indicated, with a Town Parking permit and all your tires must be off the street.*

Mr. Walters stated ex-chief's name has been in the papers, what type of background check is done for department heads? How extensive are these checks? How was chief hired? Mayor explained the history of the forms of government. We have a Manager/Council form of government. The Town Manager serves at the pleasure of the Town Council and is responsible for administration duties of running the town, included hiring of the staff. When the ex-chief was hired we had the Council/Administrative form of government where the Council members were assigned positions including, Police Commissioner, Road Commissioner etc. At that time the ex-chief was interviewed by the Police Commissioner, Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem. They decided to hire the previous police chief. The Town Administrator would give the job offer.

Mr. Walters stated he was not impressed with this Town Manager maybe we should go back to the Council/Administrative form of Government. Mayor explained how systems work. A previous council felt the current form of government was the better way and I concur. If the Council is not happy with the Town Manager, a vote of 3-2 can terminate that individual. The Mayor has one vote along with the other 4 council members.

Mr. Walters asked if we do random drug test on Police Chief, and Department heads. *After checking the Town does drug testing and background checks at time of hiring.*

3. Bob Pfeil, 136 E. Holly Trail, stated he feels the present form of government works good; manager has experience on governmental issues.
4. Pete Macfarlane 67 Trinitie Trail stated his cable bill has increase 86% and he has no choices on channel of company. He would like to know if the Town can do anything to get Charter Cable to give al lacart choices in channels. Mayor said we have no control over the cable company packages.

Mr. Macfarlane wanted to know if the Town will put breaks into concrete curbing by 44 Juniper Trail so water can run off. Mayor will look into it. *This item will be discussed with Council.*

Mr. Macfarlane also wanted to know if the Town can clean up and repairs the gravel at the entrance to Food Lion, as it is very dangerous. Mayor will investigate. The Mayor stated this is a problem through out Town and we are looking into purchasing equipment so public works can repair pot holes, etc.

Mr. Macfarlane wanted to know if campers are allowed to park at peoples home, years ago that was not allowed and today there are some on properties. Answer, *Section 6.05 Parking, Storage, or Use of Recreational Equipment Recreational equipment parked or stored in any location shall not be used for living, sleeping, or housekeeping purposes.*

5. Bobby Walters 60 Hickory Tr., talked about how he used to shoot off fireworks at the ocean, until he was told it was illegal. Now he sees more fireworks, bigger and better. He asked does the PD enforce the law or is there selective enforcement? Mayor stated everyone should be treated equally. He further stressed it was his belief with any ordinance we should either enforce our ordinances equally or eliminate ordinances.
6. Bob Pfeil 136 E. Holly Tr. stated he never sees police patrolling the town and asked how many are on shift. Mayor says normally there are two every shift and they are to patrol the entire town at least once a shift.
7. Charlie Hess 6 Soundview Tr., told how he was out of town and asked the Police Department to watch his house. Upon returning home, he had some service workers at the house, the police officer showed up to make sure they were home and that everything was alright. His opinion was The Police Department is doing a great job.
8. Pete Macfarlane 67 Trinitie Tr., asked why the Police Department has SUV's instead of standard cars. Mayor explained that was the decision of a previous council and he did know all the reasons why that decision was made. He is going to recommend the town looks at more cost effective vehicles. We also need to keep in mind the rising cost of gasoline, etc. The Mayor also believes the practice of cars being taken home needs to end.
9. Bobby Walters 60 Hickory Trail, asked why didn't they have smaller vehicles, maybe 4 cylinder cars for issuing parking tickets etc. or why not a pickup and let them pickup up trash cans, down signs etc. Mayor explained the Town Manager oversees these issues and we will review options at budget time. The current SUVs are all four wheel drive so they can go on the beach.

10. Paul Watson, 171 Sassafras Lane, would like a better breakdown of the budget to see where tax dollars are going for instance public works. Mayor, we are working on a more detailed budget with layman terms, so everyone can understand it.
11. Pete Macfarlane asked if the microphones were working and wasn't \$5,000 put aside in the budget to upgrade system. Mayor said he would look into this and see why they haven't been fixed, the microphones should be working. Mayor did ask if people can't hear, please let us know. Mayor will remind Council and Attorney to speak into the microphones.
12. Pat Storey, 362 Sea Oats Tr. asked if the money was in the budget why it wasn't done. Mayor wasn't in office then and will find out what happened.
13. Hal Denny 52 Ocean Blvd. asked if the Mayors Chat notes were going to be on the web and if so who is taking notes because the Town Manager was not there and he took the notes last time. Mayor stated yes they would be on the web that Merrie is taking notes. Mayor explained that some people didn't feel comfortable talking with the Town Manager up front with the Mayor so he decided to change the format. When the Mayor was campaigning, he promised to listen to our citizens. These Mayor Chats are done in an informal setting and may change from time to time based on recommendations of those in attendance. The first change that was asked was to start these meetings earlier so we would have a full hour and we made the change to 5:45PM. The next change was to have just the Mayor conducting the meetings so people would be more comfortable speaking if they had a complaint about the manager and we made this change at this meeting. As Mayor I feel it is important to remember who we represent and to truly listen to our citizens which will hopefully bring the friendly and small town government back.

Mr. Denny said he was told the instructed Town Manager not to attend my meetings. Mayor explained to him this was not true and that everyone is welcome at my meetings and that includes all Town Employees.

14. Bobby Walters, 60 Hickory Tr. stated he had no problem with Merrie taking notes, he was upset with Paul Sutherland sending a note from the Mountains to fire Merrie. He was disappointed with Hal Denny's comments. This was an issue when last year the appointed Mayor never apologized for the threat the firing.